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LCY Presidium Meets Today, Tito Returns to Belgrade

71

The fifty-two member party presidium heard an address by Krsta Avramovic, a member of the executive bureau in charge of youth affairs. Avramovic summed up progress to date in preparations for the party conference and the presidium postponed the conference to 6-7 December. The original date proposed--the third week of this month--was bypassed because of the political turmoil in the wake of Tito's recent purge.

The presidium meeting in Belgrade was chaired by Tito who just returned from a visit to Macedonia. While in Skopje, Tito held a meeting with all the top Macedonian party and government leaders. Attendance was very similar to the meeting in Belgrade, which Tito used to purge Nikezic and company. The tone of press releases from Macedonia, however, suggests that Tito did not try to rearrange the political balance there. His trip seems to have been designed to whip up enthusiasm for his total program and simultaneously to take a personal reading on the atmosphere in this key southern republic.

Elsewhere, the purge seems to be proceeding at a painfully slow pace. Four members of the republic assembly in Croatia have resigned, the first such measures there.

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Romanian Film Industry Criticized

Noted Romanian writer Titus Popovici has lashed out at the leadership failings of his nation's movie industry.

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-2-

His words, however, have a broader significance and touch on a theme being heard in Romania with increasing frequency-- criticism of bureaucrats who get their job by party position and favor rather than experience and expertise.

The catalyst for Popovici's remarks, which, according to RFE, appeared in a recent issue of Cinema Review, appears to have been the rejection of a script he recently submitted to director Mircea Sintimbreanu. This rejection followed Popovici's initial success with the movie "The Power and the Truth" (the first Romanian film to deal with the errors of the Stalinist period).

Despite the motivation, Popovici's remarks are atypical for Romania, where part of the explanation for Ceausescu's success in the realm of foreign policy rests on his tight grip over Romania's political and cultural life. Popovici's criticism, therefore, stands out as an avenue of escape from what otherwise appears to be something of an intellectual cul-de-sac. [REDACTED]

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Yet Another Unremarkable Polish-Bulgarian Visit

Polish party chief Gierek's recent three-day visit to Bulgaria (9-11 November) passed without major achievement and with no indication of any underlying political purpose behind it. Gierek and Bulgarian party chief Zhivkov conducted friendly talks, signed a consular convention, an agreement to begin a ten-year cooperative venture to build a series of large tankers, and an agreement on cooperation in the ideological sphere. The communique issued on Gierek's departure was relatively bland and contained most of the standard platitudes common to these documents.

Gierek's trip was the sixth high-level exchange between Warsaw and Sofia in the past ten months and followed by less than one month the visit of Bulgarian Premier Todorov to Poland. Since neither the extent of common interests nor the condition of relations between the two countries would seem to warrant such frequent, high-level contact, there has been much speculation on the real motivation behind the visits. Our embassy in Warsaw lamely suggested that they may have been planned as a propaganda balance for recent high-level Polish visits to the West (Gierek recently visited France, and Premier Jaroszewicz visited Sweden). The absence of any really significant result certainly adds credence to this view. [REDACTED]

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-3-

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Zhivkov Arrives in Moscow

Bulgarian party boss Todor Zhivkov was welcomed to Moscow this morning at Vnukovo airport by Leonid Brezhnev, Nikolay Podgorny and Aleksey Kosygin. The Zhivkov delegation includes Foreign Minister Mladenov, Premier Todorov, Deputy Premier Tsolov and the first secretary of the Pazardzhik okrug party organization, Dimitur Zhulev. They will remain in Moscow until 18 November. Zhivkov last visited Moscow in June. His trip this time may be in part to get the latest Soviet line and instructions on CSCE on the eve of the MPT in Helsinki. 25X1

Ideological Differences in Czechoslovak Party?

The Czechoslovak Communist Party (KSC) ideological czar Vasil Bilak was even more open on the need for ideological vigilance at the session of the Slovak party Central Committee plenum (8-9 November) than he had been at the KSC plenum two weeks before. He warned that overcoming "rightist opportunism" is a long-term and highly-demanding task and said that "one cannot assume our successes will automatically lead toward a complete defeat of rightist opportunism." He further admitted that "so much wrong still survives from our past---how much there is to be overcome."

More interesting, however, was the admission that there are those in the party who want a change from hard-line policies. Bilak said that in the process of preparing the KSC plenum two views had emerged as to what the plenum would solve. He accused one group of taking a "blue-sky" approach. This group apparently feels that the situation has been consolidated, that everything is getting better, the state of the economy is good and getting better, and that a "let bygones be bygones" attitude should prevail. In short, Bilak accuses these people of supporting a period of liberalization. Bilak rejects this approach as unacceptable and politically very harmful. 25X1

The admission of disagreement within the party may indicate that the current ideological campaign will face not only public apathy but disinterest within the party.

Chinese Trade Minister Arrives in Hungary

Peking's foreign trade minister, Pai Hsiang-kuo, arrived in Budapest over the weekend on the first leg of a tour that will also take him to Yugoslavia and Romania. For its part,

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-4-

Budapest undoubtedly does not appreciate being lumped together with the two ideological miscreants and is billing the visit strictly as a return of the 1971 sojourn to Peking by the Hungarian foreign trade minister. The Chinese minister will get an appropriately respectful reception in Hungary, but media coverage will be low key. Given Soviet sensitivity to all things Chinese, recent Soviet-Hungarian foreign trade differences and past hints of Chinese-Hungarian flirtations, Budapest has little desire to be in the forefront of dealings with Peking. Sino-Hungarian trade is still modest, ranking behind most other Eastern European countries, with a 1972 volume of \$38 million. Nonetheless, the fact remains that Sino-Soviet trade relations, which supposedly should set the pattern for Sino-Hungarian contacts, continue to be consummated at the sub-ministerial level.

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